

Sophomore superstar
Sophomore Nubia Dickerson's debut CD, "Let Me
Introduce Myself," is slated for a June release
SOPHOMORE page 6



Tribe puts out Flames
Tribe baseball blows past liberty 11-1 as senior third baseman
Greg Sexton breaks the College's all-time hit record
See TRIBE page 10

The Flat Hat

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FLATHATNEWS.COM

Admit rate on the rise

*As peer institutions become
more selective, College's
acceptance rate increases*

BY ANGELA COTA
FLAT HAT ASSOC. NEWS EDITOR

College admissions are becoming notoriously more competitive, but the College may not be keeping up. As other colleges have seen record-low acceptance rates, the College's acceptance rate has increased from 31 percent two years ago, to 32 percent last year, and 33 percent this year.

Dean of Admissions Henry Broaddus and Associate Provost for Enrollment Earl Granger attributed this year's higher acceptance rate to press about early decision programs earlier this year, when such programs were discontinued at Harvard University, Princeton University and the University of Virginia.

"The early admissions rates [of applications] are down because of how much of a beating early decision took in the press this year," Granger said.

This year's early applicants decreased by 6.7 percent from last year. According to Granger, the lower early admission applications affected who applied regular decision.

"The selectivity is a little different, but as a qualitative matter, we identify the most talented within our pool, so the most important thing is that the class is its own best resource, and in terms of how diverse it is, it has really been a great success," Granger said.

Many colleges saw record lows in admission rates, such as U.Va.'s 33 percent rate, down from 36 percent last year.

The College received a record 10,845 applications and accepted 3,577. The College still expects its typical enrollment of around 1,350, but that the College is offering spots to more students indicates the possibility that the College may be trying to compensate for a lower yield rate.

See **ACCEPTANCE** page 4



JONATHAN SEIDEN • THE FLAT HAT

Junior Michelle Gannon, the managing editor for the College's yearbook the Colonial Echo, sits atop hundreds of unsold yearbooks from 2006. The Colonial Echo may be forced into hiatus due to budget concerns and staff shortages.

Yearbook in peril

*College's oldest publication
may be forced into hiatus*

BY ANDY HENDERSON
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

"They said that I was going to come to William and Mary and 'take over the yearbook,'" junior Michelle Gannon said, thinking back to a running joke her high school buddies made because of the enthusiasm with which she took to her tenure as editor of their school's award-winning yearbook. They were right.

Proving her friends correct, Gannon has since served as managing editor for the Colonial Echo for the last two years, overseeing every detail of the Echo's publication from start to finish. Now, with her graduation next spring looming around the corner and with no successor in line, the College's oldest running publication faces an uncertain future.

Because she has time-consuming plans to student-teach next semester, Gannon had hoped that this year would be her last with the Echo. However, in the organization's annual officer elections, only one staffer ran to replace her,

and the unopposed staffer has since withdrawn her bid for the position.

Gannon has since agreed to stay on staff for at least the 2007-2008 edition. If no one takes her spot after that, the Colonial Echo will be forced to miss a year for the first time in over a century for its 2008-2009 edition.

"There will be a yearbook next year," Gannon said. "If there will be one after that, I don't know. It's possible it might not publish, but it's a really sad thought."

This is especially poignant at a time when the Echo's quality is on the upswing.

"I think we've done a really good job bringing it up to a higher standard than it's ever been," Gannon said, referring to the many recognitions the yearbook has recently won, including the gold prize from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, which was awarded to the Echo last year for the first time since 1907.

"The College would hate for it to be lost, there's no doubt about that," Mark Constantine, assistant vice president for student affairs, said.

See **COLLEGE** page 3

Students may pay for free music

RIAA may fine, prosecute students who have illegally downloaded copyrighted media

BY AUSTIN WRIGHT
FLAT HAT NEWS EDITOR

The College forwarded 12 pre-litigation letters from the Recording Industry of America to students who allegedly downloaded music illegally. The letters offer the students a chance to settle copyright infringement claims at a reduced rate or face lawsuits from the association.

The RIAA tracked students based on their IP addresses and sent 413 letters to 21 universities, requesting that the universities forward the letters to the students. The RIAA does not know the identity of the students, and the College currently will not release that information but may eventually be legally obligated to do so.

"The College would not release such

personal information about students without their consent," Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler wrote yesterday in an e-mail to students. "We were informed that this request was being made of us in advance of a possible subpoena for the information. Were a subpoena issued, we might well be required to provide the identifying information."

According to a press release from the RIAA, the association is trying to deter illegal downloading on college campuses. The press release says that a 2006 survey by the Student Monitor found that more than half of college students obtain music and movies illegally.

"Without question, this new enforce-

ment initiative has invigorated a meaningful conversation on college campuses about music theft, its consequences and the numerous ways to enjoy legal music," Steven Marks, general counsel and executive vice president of the RIAA, said in the press release. "The question we ask of students is this: with high-quality legal music options available for free or deeply discounted, why take the twin risks of exposing your computer to viruses or spyware by downloading from an



RIAA's Steven Marks

illegal site or exposing yourself to a costly lawsuit?"

The letters mark the third wave of bulk notifications to universities about

student copyright infringement. According to The Daily Pennsylvanian — the student newspaper of the University of Pennsylvania, which received 17 pre-litigation letters Wednesday — the RIAA has sent over 1,200 letters total to universities and plans to send 400 per month, in addition to lawsuits filed on a rolling basis.

The College was the only Virginia school to receive letters. Ohio University topped the list, receiving 50 letters.

"Obviously the recording industry is stepping up enforcement of its copyrights," Sadler said in his e-mail.

"If you have doubts about whether it would be appropriate to download from the internet music or other materials, my strong suggestion would be, don't."

Flat Hat writer to address grads

Derby chosen as student commencement speaker

BY CARL SIEGMUND
FLAT HAT ASSOC. NEWS EDITOR

Senior Elizabeth Derby beat out four other finalists competing to be the 2007 commencement student speaker, including outgoing SA president Ryan Scofield.

"I screamed, I was totally shocked because the feedback I got was that my speech was good, but my public speaking was not up to par," Derby said. "I was thrilled and flattered. I come from a creative writing background and I'm glad to know that in my prose, the lyrical quality translates."

Derby's five-minute speech to her classmates will address, among other topics, the fact that everyone who is graduating has accomplished something as a student at the College.

"We are all intelligent here, and we still have stand-out people. Basically, we are all fabulous," she said.

Derby is a staff columnist at the Flat Hat, writing the weekly "That Guy/That Girl" columns.

Members of the selection committee, which was composed of students and members of the faculty and administration, were impressed with Derby's speech.

"She writes with such a lyrical quality — add to that her bubbly personality, and she will be an excellent graduation speaker," Sam Sadler, vice president for student affairs and a member of the committee, said.

This year, only 10 students applied to speak, while in previous years, 20 to 25 students have entered the competition, Sadler said. Along with a resume, candidates were asked to provide a written commission explaining why they wanted to speak. Everyone was invited to give a

See **DERBY** page 4

College forms logo group

After removing feathers from logo, Tribe looks for new symbol

BY ELIZA MURPHY
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

In response to the NCAA's ruling last year that the College must remove the green and gold feathers from its logo, a committee of students, faculty, alumni and staff has been created to come up with a new logo.

Feb. 20, College President Gene Nichol charged Vice President of Student Affairs Sam Sadler with the task of creating the committee.

In his letter to Sadler, Nichol stated that the job of the committee is to "develop and recommend to the President a new logo for the College through broad input from the William and Mary community."

In addition, the commit-

tee is to decide whether a mascot should be adopted at this time.

Nichol further emphasized that the task of the committee is not to review the College's nickname. "We will remain the Tribe," Nichol said.

The committee has 14 members, and is made up of alumni, students, faculty and staff at the College.

Chaired by Sadler, student members include President of the Student Assembly senior Ryan Scofield, senior Kyra Kaylor, sophomore Tom Yake and Kendra Boykin of the Graduate School of Education. Terry Driscoll, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Peel Hawthorne, '80, Coach of the Women's Field Hockey team, represent the Depart-



SPENCER ATKINSON • THE FLAT HAT

The College's logo, seen here on the basketball court of Kaplan Arena, will soon lose its feathers due to an NCAA ruling.

ment of Intercollegiate Athletics on the committee.

Members of the Alumni Association include Executive Vice President Karen Cottrell, '66, Connie DeSaulniers, '75, James S.

Kelly, '51 and Nancy Matthews, '76.

The faculty members are Marlene Jack, professor of art history, and Don Rahtz,

See **COMMITTEE**, page 4

NEWSINSIGHT

The Flat Hat

‘Stabilitas et Fides’

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Corrections

The News article “Pranks, Slurs Probed” incorrectly states that TDX’s party Preps vs. Punks was held April 1. It took place March 21.

The Flat Hat wishes to correct any facts printed incorrectly. Corrections may be submitted by e-mail to the section editor in which the incorrect information was printed. Requests for corrections will be accepted at any time.

Weather

Friday



High 67°
Low 44°

Saturday



High 65°
Low 50°

Sunday



High 63°
Low 42°

Source: www.weather.com

Quote of the Week

“ There will be a yearbook next year. If there will be one after that, I don’t know. ”

- Junior Michelle Gannon on the future of the Colonial Echo
See **YEARBOOK** page 1

News in Brief

Professor awarded Guggenheim Fellowship

Nikos Chrisochoides, alumni memorial distinguished associate professor of computer science at the College, has been awarded the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship on Medicine and Health. The area of medicine and health awarded two Fellows this year, and Chrisochoides was the only American recipient of this honor. Chrisochoides has been working on Image Guided Neurosurgery, a treatment for brain tumors. His research team pioneered the field of image tracking by aligning pre- and intra-operative views of the brain, which can be used during tumor removal procedure.

Winning the Guggenheim Fellowship will allow his team to improve technology and expand their reach to hospitals across the world. As Chrisochoides noted, the award was given for medicine and health instead of computer science, which will create even more opportunities for its development. Chrisochoides is now the fourth professor from the College to receive this fellowship.

Prime Outlets to expand retail space

Prime Outlets is expanding onto the Comfort Inn hotel site and adding 3.54 acres of retail space. The expansion includes more parking spaces and plans to put a traffic light on Olde Towne Road. Opponents of the development cite environmental reasons, but developers have said they will take steps to be environmentally friendly. These steps include reusing brick from old buildings. New stores coming to Prime Outlets have not been announced.

— by Kara Starr and Alexandra Cochrane

By the Numbers

Zero

The number of years since 1947 that Williamsburg received snow in April, according to data from the Southeast Regional Climate Center.

413

The number of lawsuit notification letters that the RIAA sent out this week to students at 22 universities. The RIAA also notified the College this week that it found copyright violations tied to 12 campus computers.

34 percent

The proportion of college students who reported spending 10 hours or more online per week, according to a nationwide survey of August 2006 survey of 800 students.

25 percent

The online betting odds that Virginia will vote for the Democratic nominee in the 2008 presidential election, according live quotes from Intrade.com.

7 percent

The proportion of all married couples that are interracial, up from 2 percent in 1970, according to a Stanford researcher. A Virginia law barring non-whites from marrying whites was not struck down by the Supreme Court until 1967.

— by Maxim Lott



COURTESY PHOTO • UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

BEYOND THE BURG

Naval Academy graduate faces prison time

Former student charged with indecent assault, dismissed from Navy

By ALEXANDRA COCHRANE

FLAT HAT ASSOC. NEWS EDITOR

Kenny Ray Morrison, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, was sentenced April 10 to two years of confinement and dismissal from the Navy. The 24 year-old former Academy football player from Texas was found guilty of committing indecent assault and conduct unbecoming an officer. He faced up to 10 years in prison, and prosecutors petitioned for at least three to five years of confinement. A jury of seven Marine Corps and Navy officers, with Captain Daniel King serving as president of the jury, sentenced

Morrison.

Although he was not found guilty of sexual misconduct charges, the issue stems from alleged assault of a female midshipman.

“I will never recover what I could have been, what I would have been...I’ve lost a part of myself,” she said according to The Washington Post.

According to The Associated Press, Morrison has said that he was looking for a place to sleep in a hotel and stumbled into her room by accident. He maintains that the sex was consensual and that she came on to him. The female midshipman has said that

she had fallen asleep and woke up to find him in the room.

“Before his sentencing at Washington Navy Yard, the former linebacker emotionally read an unsworn statement during which, between sniffles, he took a measure of responsibility, saying: ‘I put myself in this situation.’ He offered direct apologies to his family and those connected with the Naval Academy, but he made no reference to his accusers or his crime,” Raymond McCaffrey of the Washington Post wrote.

William M. Ferris, Morrison’s defense attorney, plans to appeal the verdict and maintains that the sex was consensual.

STREET BEAT

What advice would you give to incoming freshmen?



Juggle.

Colleen Gunning, sophomore



Join Libertarian Students.

Brendan Ferreri-Hanberry, sophomore



Register the moment they open the site.

Chris Flynn, sophomore



Make sure you have an umbrella and some good rain walking boots.

Matt Spino, grad student

— photos and interviews by Spencer Atkinson

CAMPUS POLICE BEAT

April 4 to April 9

Wednesday, April 4 — A student reported that an iPod was stolen from the University Center. The estimated value of the stolen iPod is \$175. **1**

— A staff member at James Blair reported that an iPod was stolen out of a locked office. The office and the iPod belonged to a graduate student. The estimated value of the stolen iPod is \$150. **2**

— A student reported a larceny outside of Unit E. He reported that a Silver Schwinn

Mountain Bike was taken from the Unit E bike rack and had not been seen since Friday, March 30. The estimated value of the bike is \$70. **3**

Thursday, April 5 — Police Unit 104 reported vandalism in the William and Mary Hall parking lot. The unit reported that a van belonging to Rec Sports had been tagged and there were no plates on the vehicle. The estimated damage was \$500. **4**

— A resident of Landrum called in a complaint about a man preaching at the Crim Dell. **1**

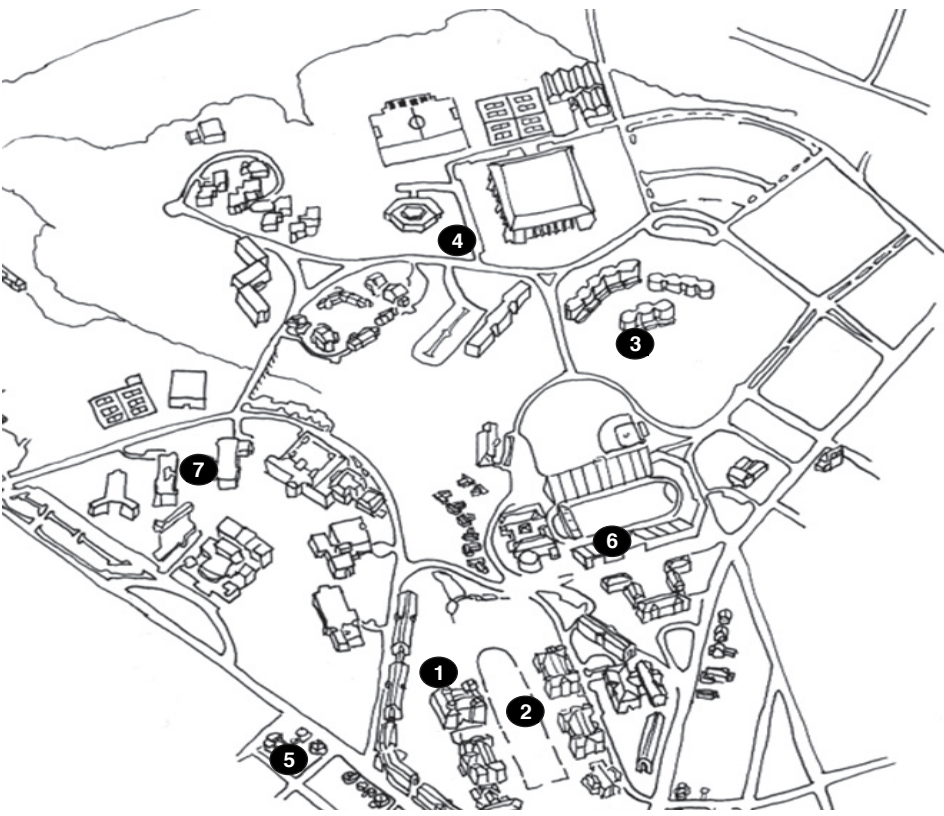
— A student reported a larceny at Jamestown South. The student reported the theft of a Silver Schwinn Ranger Mountain Bike from the bike rack in front of Jamestown South. The estimated value of the bike was \$100. The bike was not registered with the police department. **5**

Friday, April 6 — A student reported vandalism to her vehicle in the Stadium Parking Lot. An officer was dispatched. **6**

Sunday, April 8 — An individual called in a complaint that someone used an unknown substance to write “leachbone” on the right rear corner of his vehicle. Estimated vehicle damage \$35. **4**

Monday, April 9 — An Aramark employee reported a larceny at Ukrop Way. Unit 53 was approached by an Aramark employee and reported a stolen blue, women’s bicycle. The estimated value of the bike is \$100. **7**

— compiled by Morgan Figa



Sullivan to keynote CNU graduation

By ANDY ZAHN
FLAT HAT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Former College President Timothy J. Sullivan will keynote the graduation ceremony at Christopher Newport University this year, CNU President Paul Trible announced in an e-mail to CNU students Wednesday. Sullivan was the College's graduation speaker in 2005, his last year leading the College.

Since then, Sullivan has served as president and CEO of the Mariners' Museum in Newport News.

"It is a great honor to have Tim Sullivan address our graduates," Trible, a former U.S. Republican Senator from Virginia, said in a CNU press release. "As a professor and dean of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law and President of Wil-

liam and Mary and now as President of the Mariners' Museum, Tim Sullivan has contributed immensely to the success of Virginia. His life embodies the qualities of leadership, honor and civic engagement that we strive to instill in all our students at CNU."

Sullivan's tenure at the College began in 1962, when he entered as a freshman. After graduating in 1966, he received a J.D. from Harvard Law School. Sullivan then served in the army during the Vietnam War. He returned to the College to run the Marshall-Wythe School of Law and became dean in 1985. In 1992, the Board of Visitors appointed him the College's 25th president, a position he held for 13 years.

CNU's commencement ceremony will take place May 13.

College yearbook faces troubles for '08

COLLEGE, from page 1

Constantine oversees the student publications committee and the groups it funds.

"This is a student initiative," he said. "If no one is that interested, ultimately the publication would go away."

Constantine cited what he perceived as a general nationwide trend moving away from yearbooks in higher education.

"Many schools have dropped them altogether," he said.

As far as Gannon is concerned, the main problem facing the Echo right now is a top-heavy hierarchy that gives the managing editor too much work and too few rewards.

"If you're the editor of The Flat Hat, that's pretty cool. If you're the editor of the yearbook, people are like — we have a yearbook? It's much more behind

the scenes," Gannon said.

After acknowledging that she has a great staff working for her, she goes on to explain that the workload is enough to keep anyone away.

"Basically, I kind of do everything that doesn't get done. Proofs, copy-edit, work with the publishing company, answering phones — whatever," she said.

On top of that, when writers shirk, the buck stops with her. She personally wrote 100 pages of last year's 300-page edition.

"I am going to be studying abroad next fall in Singapore, but even if I were here, I would not be willing to take on responsibility for the entire yearbook. It is a ridiculous time commitment," Echo staff writer sophomore Andrew Chan said.

In many schools, such as James Madison University, journalism and media arts ma-

jor students flock to the yearbook staff in hopes of creating a layout and design portfolio that would be helpful in later job searches. The College does not offer these majors.

"They can take it as examples of their work. We don't have that here," Gannon said.

For now, Gannon is planning an organizational restructuring that would include delegating some of the managing editor's duties to the section editors and perhaps creating two co-editor positions.

She also will actively try to find and train a successor.

Summer Plans?

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Derby to speak

DERBY from page 1

short two-minute presentation before the final five were selected. Derby, along with the four others, then gave five-minute speeches and were interviewed by the selection committee. She said she was scared when she first saw the strong field of candidates, which she described as being brilliant and of high quality.

“All were really even, and each of them different,” Sadler said of the final five. “But in the end, you combine her writing with her bubbly personality and she will be great.”



Elizabeth Derby

Committee considers logos

COMMITTEE from page 1

professor in the Mason School of Business.

The final member is Vice President of Public Affairs Stewart Gamage, '72.

According to Kaylor, the committee is still in the early stages of the process. Currently, the committee is still looking to receive logo ideas from the community.

Students, faculty, alumni and outside members of the community are invited to submit logo ideas to the committee by April 29.

Ideas can be e-mailed to Sadler at wssadl@wm.edu.

The logo will be judged based on its ability to be easily recognizable, elicit a

common sentiment and meaning, be easily remembered, evoke positive feelings, elicit pride among members of the community, reinforce traditions and reflect the high standards, spirit and character of the College.

The committee has also decided to accept the President's offer of considering a mascot idea in addition to the logo. However, Kaylor said, the committee will not begin to look at ideas for mascots until the logo has been decided upon.

The committee hopes to propose a recommendation for the new logo to Nichol by the fall of 2007.

Last year, Nichol denounced the NCAA's decision, but decided not to fight it due to the strain it would put on the College.

Acceptance rate rises for 2nd year in a row

ACCEPTANCE from page 1

Of the 10,845 applicants, 8.6 percent, or 938, were students of color. Last year, the rate was 8.8 percent. Of the 938 of color, 270 are black, 375 are Asian, 258 are Hispanic and 35 are Native American.

Twenty percent of applicants (2,179) were students of color. This is an increase compared to the 2,076 (19 percent) of last year.

First-generation students, whose parents or guardians did not attend college, increased from 331 to

375.

“There is a significant increase in this area of 13 percent. We are very excited about this, because it is another indicator in our success in outreach towards students who wouldn't normally think of attending William and Mary,” Broadus said.

Granger also emphasized the first generation increase as a way to impact campus economic diversity.

“Clearly we're excited about the first generation increase; most people think of race as diversity, but we think about it in the broadest context,” he said. “We're excited in terms of direction; we are able to impact the way our campus looks and the way our students are challenged.”

The SAT middle 50th percentile was 1310-1470, identical to last year. Of students who attended high schools that use class ranks, 87 percent were ranked in the top 10 percent of their class. This is an increase from last year, according to the Admissions Office's press release.

Statistics for waitlisted students are not yet available.

“We don't have those statistics yet. We are still building the waitlist; students can be admitted, denied or offered a place on the waitlist,” Broadus said. “We usually have an active waitlist of just over 800.”

Despite the rise of the admission rate, Broadus and Granger are happy with the turnout of this year's process, and they want to continue to focus on expansion of diversity.

“It's a college community where we have a lot to be proud of, statistically,” Granger said.

“We want to cultivate and develop the Gateway pool, which is for students whose family makes below \$40,000 a year. Only 28 percent of students at William and Mary are here on financial aid,” Granger said.

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OPINIONS

STAFF EDITORIAL

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Associate Opinions Editor **Sarah Sibley**
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Welcome to the College

To all prospective students visiting campus, welcome and we're glad you made it here to visit. Whether you live two minutes away or two oceans away, we hope you'll experience some of the interesting and fascinating things about our College, and we're not just talking about the absurdly large squirrel population or the abundance of students in yellow T-shirts who seem all too cheerful for a Saturday morning.

Many of you are likely considering several schools. In fact, there's a good chance that perhaps you and some of your fellow prospective students are apprehensive about the whole process. You may even be looking left and right, frantically trying to identify things that you do and don't like about the College. Don't worry: we've been there before, and we know you will make the right choice.

By now, you probably already know that our College is rich in tradition, history, culture, bricks and extremely attractive students. We can't argue the importance of any of these characteristics of the College, but we encourage all of you to dig deeper and discover what really makes this place unique. Ask questions about social life, professor accessibility, weather, food and everything in between. Ask a student why President Gene Nichol is the best Santa Claus on the East Coast, or why the College is one of the only schools in the country that calls it government instead of political science — we have no idea, by the way.

Find out how you will get involved once you come to campus. Students here are known to be rigorously active in athletic, cultural and philanthropic

More than anything, take a few moments, perhaps away from your parents, to just relax and envision yourself as a member of the Class of 2011 at the College.

pursuits outside of the classroom. Attend the activities fair and learn about campus groups, cultural organizations, student newspapers and everything in between. Learn about the athletic accomplishments of our teams and athletes, such as senior Megan Moulton-Levy and sophomore Katarina Zoricic, the no. 1 ranked women's doubles tennis duo in the country. After all, it may not be long before you and your new friends will fill the stands at Zable Stadium, or scream through painted faces in Kaplan Arena.

While you're on campus, take a stroll into Colonial Williamsburg — the most historic, interesting (though at times overpriced) area in the state of Virginia. With a deep-rooted connection to the College, CW leaves one with a sense of pride and excitement that few other places can boast. Don't worry about all the ghosts

either, as they are mostly harmless.

More than anything, take a few moments, perhaps away from your parents, to just relax and envision yourself as a member of the Class of 2011 at the College. With decision time rapidly approaching, you need a short time to reflect on what you see and learn about our campus.

While not the most selective or competitive class of admitted students in recent years, the Class of 2011 — you and your potential classmates — feature a record number of first-generation students, a sign of the College's efforts to diversify its student body. You comprise a group of talented and unique individuals that, we hope, will become the newest chapter in a book that was opened over 300 years ago.

The Flat Hat welcomes submissions to the Opinions section. Letters to the Editor and Opinions columns are due at 5 p.m. Sunday for publication the following Tuesday and at 5 p.m. Wednesday for the following Friday. All submissions must be typed and double-spaced, and must include the author's name, telephone number and any relevant titles or affiliations with campus or national groups. Letters may be no more than 300 words; columns may not be less than 500 words nor more than 700. Letters must be e-mailed to opinions@flathatnews.com. The Flat Hat reserves the right to edit all material. Because of space limitations, The Flat Hat may not publish all submissions. The Flat Hat Editorial Board meets before each issue to discuss the position taken by editorials. Unsigned editorials are written by a designated member of the Editorial Board. All Board editorials reflect the consensus of the Editorial Board. Letters, columns, graphics and cartoons reflect the view of the author only.

Naked time

My roommate went home last weekend, and I couldn't have been happier. Don't get me wrong, I like the guy. But sometimes I need my space. His presence prevents me from doing the one thing I love most in this world: naked time.



James Damon

When I say naked time, I do not mean anything carnal or sexual. I'm not up all night doing it. By naked time, I simply mean a portion of my day when I can be myself, and only myself.

There's something incredibly freeing in shedding shirts, pants, socks and, finally, underwear. When I'm wearing clothing, I often forget that there's anything under there. My clothing becomes my skin. The outfits I wear represent me as I want others to see me.

Yet no brand of clothing produced my naked body. It was just me, with a little help from my parents. When I'm naked, I feel less pretentious. And this makes everyday tasks infinitely more enjoyable.

Have you ever tried reading a book? I do it all the time for class and sometimes for fun. I love reading; you might even say I should marry it. But have you ever tried reading a book naked?

I have, in case you were wondering. The experience is exactly the same except more intimate. When I'm naked I feel less aware of myself. Therefore the act of reading engrosses me more. Forgetting my body, which is free of garments, I can focus on the misadventures of Clarissa Dalloway, Heathcliff and Dracula. When I'm naked, "I am Heathcliff."

David Sedaris wrote an amusing essay on the subject of nudity in his book, "Naked." I love his writing and his books have been a major influence on this periodically published column. Sedaris doesn't completely relish his time in a nudist trailer park. In fact he's uncomfortable being naked around other people.

By naked time, I simply mean a portion of my day when I can be myself, and only myself. There's something incredibly freeing in shedding shirts, pants, socks and, finally, underwear.

Unlike Sedaris, I would love to be naked 24/7. Yet if I got naked I would make others uneasy. People don't like the idea of nudity. To be honest, I don't know exactly why this is. Perhaps the idea of baring all seems overly forward to some. Others might be too self-conscious of their bodies to "take it off." Who knows?

Whatever the reason, your discomfort with nakedness is encroaching on my ability to be nude in public. If I were the only naked person in a room, no one would be able to converse with me. They'd be too aware of my nudity (and their lack thereof) to actually talk to me. Plus, everyday tasks are not naked-friendly. Can you imagine riding a roller coaster without any pants? Or sitting on a nasty park bench without a layer

of denim between your ass and the seat? The Western world is not a naked-friendly place. In order to function socially, I have to dress appropriately.

So, instead of running naked through fields of flowers or going to class in my birthday suit, I have to relegate my nasty self to these few precious moments when my roommate is away. But things don't have to be this way. In fact, we, the youth of America, can change things for the better.

You can start by having your own naked time. Read a book without any clothing, call your ex-boyfriend bereft of undergarments or write a Flat Hat opinions column wearing nothing but your spectacles. Pretty soon you might be so comfortable with your own nudity that you'll want to start getting naked with others.

When you do, give me a call to chill. I'll bring a bag of Tostitos with a hint of lime and some copies of The Flat Hat to sit on. We'll eat, laugh and talk. Maybe for a few moments you and I will forget that we are wearing nothing at all. It won't be sexual or perverse in any way. Just completely and utterly peaceful. Like sleeping kitty cats and the nation of Switzerland.

James Damon, a sophomore at the College, is a staff columnist. His columns normally appear on Tuesdays.

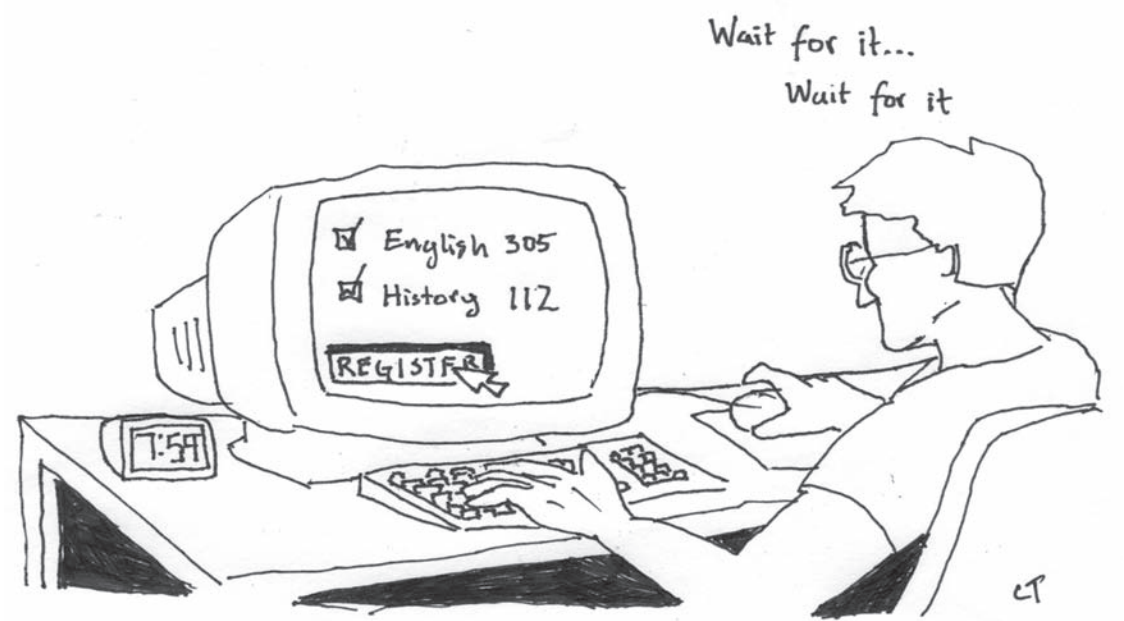
Letter to the Editor

Response to Tuesday's editorial To the Editor:

I feel your article and editorial in Tuesday's issue concerning the incidents at Theta Delta Chi insinuated a serious charge against my fraternity, Phi Kappa Tau. The two incidents, one dealing with fecal matter on TDX's dance floor and the other a verbal dispute, are completely isolated incidents. No brother of Phi Kappa Tau was involved in the vulgar prank and yet the article states "the incident caused a verbal dispute." This is simply untrue. The Flat Hat should recognize the power subscribed to it by being a widely read paper as well as the implications its reports have on the organizations involved. By implying that the unfortunate verbal

dispute was related to the disrespectful prank paints an unfair perception of our fraternity. We are one of the few fraternities that have been able to maintain a good relationship with the College and our longevity in Unit D is a testament to that. Our fraternity consists of one of the most diverse groups of individuals on this campus and our members hold many prominent positions in Student Assembly as well as philanthropic activities. Implicating an entire fraternity with regard to the actions of one individual is unjust and the fact that it was the lead article only serves to brand our fraternity with negative connotations unrepresentative of our fraternity.

— Bryce Snape, '08
Phi Kappa Tau vice president



By CHAD THOMPSON, FLAT HAT CARTOONIST

Amnesty only goes so far

The alcohol amnesty policy should not and does not refer to exception from judicial sanctions for any alcohol violations — rather, it only focuses on the case of intoxication. Recently, a College freshman notified emergency services when his roommate, according to Andy Garden's article in the April 6 issue of The Flat Hat, began "vomiting blood after consuming alcohol." The reporting student had a "considerable quantity of alcohol in his room," and was referred to the dean of students. In short, the reporting student ended up with a "two-semester



Devin DeBacker

probation [from the College], six months probation from Virginia and alcohol education from the school," as well as from James City County.

While I commend the freshman for having the gall to call emergency services, the argument that he should have been protected under the alcohol amnesty policy is weak. The current alcohol amnesty policy focuses on the intoxication of the person(s) involved (whether self or the reporting individual), and not to all violations of the College's Alcohol Beverage Policy. The entirety of the policy is prefaced by: "If an individual seeks medical attention due to his/her level of intoxication ..." Thus, if you have three handles of Parrot Bay Spiced Rum in your room, and later have to call the paramedics for your drunk roommate, judicial sanctions may be overlooked for your being intoxicated (if you are).

However, there's nothing in the amnesty policy that prevents the pursuit of judicial sanctions for the possession of alcohol (i.e. the three handles) in your room.

While I commend the freshman for having the gall to call emergency services, the argument that he should have been protected under the alcohol amnesty policy is weak.

Those are two completely separate incidents.

Consider the following: replace the "considerable quantity of alcohol" in the freshman's room with a still used to produce alcohol. Should he get amnesty under the same conditions just because producing alcohol in one's dorm would also be a violation of the College's ABP and he requested assistance for intoxication (ignoring any legal ramifications)? Certainly not. He may receive amnesty for being intoxicated, but should not (and does not, under the current policy) receive amnesty for the alcohol violation related to the still.

I know there's a large faction of students who downright don't agree with Campus Police policies or enforcement. However, their job is straightforward: to ensure campus safety and to uphold and enforce the laws of all jurisdictional levels — i.e. of the College, the city and the commonwealth of Virginia. The job of Campus Police is to account for violations of laws, whether seemingly minor or much more serious.

Notice that nowhere in the job description does it say, "rewrite existing laws that may seem impractical" or "selectively enforce those laws that are most pragmatic."

The fact remains that, if you're under 21, you don't have the legal right to consume or possess alcohol. If you don't agree with that, fine — but that's the status quo. If you knowingly disobey that law, don't whine when you're not ready to accept the consequences. If your roommate has alcohol in the room and you don't want to get in trouble, try to work it out with him and then report it if you can't. If you want to side with loyalty to your roommate and don't want to be a stool pigeon, then act maturely and accept the consequences should law enforcement ever have to enter your room.

Devin DeBacker is a junior at the College.

Confederate controversy

It appears the Politically Correct police are out and about again, this time down in the city of Suffolk. The Daily Press reported April 7 that Mayor Linda Johnson rejected the request of the Tom Smith Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans to proclaim April "Confederate History Month."

Along with the rejection, Johnson issued a statement saying, "It is my goal to work towards unity of all Suffolkians ... of all heritages, faiths and ethnicities. All soldiers of all wars that have fought or died for their cause are to be honored and remembered. We do this on Veterans Day, Memorial Day and, hopefully, throughout our daily lives."

Mayor Johnson's sentiment of tolerance and inclusion is to be applauded, but her statement itself both misses the point and escapes the real issue of contention. A Confederate History month would be little different from the five other officially recognized history months already in the books, except that the South endorsed slavery. But is this reason enough to dismiss the remembrance of a distinct heritage?

While valid, the mayor's argument that Confederate veterans can be honored just like any others misses the point that the requested Confederate History Month is about more than soldiers fighting in a war, but an entire culture. The SCV's website makes it clear that they're not just a group to remember fallen soldiers, but that they "serve as a historical, patriotic and non-political organization dedicated to ensuring that a true history of the 1861-1865 period is preserved."

By passing this off as no more than a request for an extended Southern Memorial Day, Mayor Johnson (wisely?) manages to avoid going anywhere near the issue of race, but there seems to be little reason for her allergic reaction to the SCV's request. Two years ago, Suffolk's former mayor had no trouble issuing such a proclamation, and current Vice Mayor Curtis Milteer, himself a descendant

of slaves, was of a similar mind when he was in charge of the city in 2002. Indeed, former Virginia governor George Allen declared April Confederate History Month for the entire commonwealth during his tenure, and one assumes he had a bit more at stake in the decision than the mayor of a relatively minor city. Nor is Virginia alone in this practice — it has regularly been joined by several Southern states and Ohio.

So, it appears that making April Confederate History Month has precedent, but if that in and of itself doesn't confer acceptability, what does? Virginia's colorful history leaves it inextricably linked to the Confederacy, and the point is that we should be hesitant to simply brush it aside. Admittedly, I'm no Civil War buff, but I'm fairly certain Virginia was important during it, what with Richmond, Bull Run, Appomattox and a litany of generals all calling it home. Telling Virginians that they can't name a month to celebrate this history seems a bit like divorcing Vermont from Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys, or Pennsylvania from the Quakers.

Even now, more than 140 years after the war, most people associate Confederate heritage with slavery. Yes, it's impossible to separate the two entirely, but to keep reasonable people from promoting other aspects of their heritage for this reason alone seems unfair in modern times. Moreover, a Confederate History Month affords groups like the SCV the perfect opportunity to focus on educating people about parts of Southern culture unrelated to slavery.

Recently, a number of states, including Virginia, have issued formal apologies for the practice of slave-owning, and it's almost silly to think anyone today would seriously find it acceptable. In the same vein, I seriously doubt the SCV made this request because they're out to see the South rise again. More likely, they'd agree that the Southern states still maintain a distinct character, the product of a unique history and one which they'd like to celebrate. Why not give them the chance?

Andrew Peters, a sophomore at the College, is a staff columnist. His columns appear on Fridays.

VARIETY

Sophomore singer strikes recording deal

By ALEXANDER ELY
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

After hearing a rendition of Whitney Houston’s “I Will Always Love You” in the neighborhood public library, an impressed neighbor approached a four-year-old Nubia Dickerson and told her that she had sung almost as well as Houston. Without so much as a pause, Dickerson replied, “Really? I thought I sang better.” This was act one: the curtain draw.

While the road has not always been easy, Dickerson, now a sophomore at the College, has seemingly been headed for stardom as a vocalist and singer since she was able to hold a microphone. Now, 15 years after outperforming Houston, whether through confidence mixed with a dream or exuberant energy mixed with a keen awareness for her culture and her music, this prediction appears to be coming true.

After working with her mother at WorldSpaceSatelliteRadio in Silver Spring, Md., Dickerson met Gregg Diggs, a producer with aspirations of starting his own record label. Her voice, the result of years of training and passion, impressed Diggs, who almost instantly offered to sign her to his new label, Geez Dreems

entertainment. One year removed from this first encounter, while balancing the rigorous schedule of any student at the College, her debut CD, “Let Me Introduce Myself,” is slated for a June release. Dickerson’s critically acclaimed single, “I Feel the Beat,” will be available on iTunes in the coming weeks. In fact, the song has been so hyped that in a club promoters’ March release of recommendations for D.C. area DJs, her single was rated higher than upcoming songs by MIMS, Tha Dogg Pound and Snoop Dogg.

Such dreams are realized through effort, courage, resilience and a little bit of luck to boot. But like the stories of many successful musicians and artists, her story begins with her roots.

Dickerson’s mother first conceived the name Nubia when she saw a group of figurines in an Egyptian museum

10 years before the birth of her daughter. The figurines were reminiscent of the culture of an ancient, independent kingdom called Nubia, located in what is now Northern Sudan. Her mother — a native of Ethiopia who came to the United States when she was 17 — has been instrumental in educating and instilling in her daughter a distinct pride and knowledge about her background.

“My mom made a big effort to make sure that we knew who we were from a very young age,” Dickerson said. “She surrounded me with culture, with food, with the language.” When she was eight years old, Dickerson’s mother, who has been tremendously active in promoting and disseminating the cultural heritage of her country, took her daughter to Ethiopia. “I’ve been places that people who have lived

there [for] their entire lives haven’t been,” Dickerson said.

Her appreciation and awareness has grown with the hurdles that her mother and other family members have been forced to jump over the years. “I always saw that my mom faced adversity in the things that she was trying to do, which was promoting Ethiopian culture amidst famine,” she said.

These challenges, along with Dickerson’s own encounters with race and prejudice as a high school music and theater performer, helped produce the wit, voice and resilience that landed her a record deal last fall.

And then there was the music. Her grandfather had been a saxophonist and the director of a high school marching band in Prairie View, Tex. — her father, a clarinet player during his early years and a lifetime jazz enthusiast. “He continuously played jazz music in the house,” she said. “My dad gave me a couple of tapes and said, ‘I want you to learn these songs.’”

At age four, she told her mother that all she wanted to do in life was to sing. Her mother obliged by introducing Dickerson to Shirley Smith, a voice instructor, and she underwent six years of classical



COURTESY PHOTO • GEEZ DREAMZ ENTERTAINMENT
Dickerson’s album, “Let Me Introduce Myself,” will be released in June.

training while simultaneously experimenting with several other styles of music.

Act two came at age 14, when Dickerson’s family was preparing to move from Fort Washington, Md. to Silver Spring, 40 miles north. Facing separation from Smith — her teacher and mentor — and with just one final recital left, Dickerson improvised at the

last minute to make sure that it would be a memorable finale.

“I was supposed to sing ‘Once Upon a December’ from ‘Anastasia,’ and it just didn’t sit well with me,” she said. “We got up there, and I said, ‘Hold on, I’m not going to sing this song. Excuse me everybody, we’re just going to

See **DICKERSON** page 7

Phi Mu fondues for children

By MAX FISHER
FLAT HAT CHIEF STAFF WRITER

Senior Chrissy Akison never knew cheese could be so much work. “We need more Swiss,” she said between stirs of the small, cheese-filled fondue pot before her. And she hadn’t even checked in on the Choco-Fountains yet.

Akison, the philanthropy chair of Phi Mu sorority, oversaw six fondue pots, two Choco-Fountains (pots of flowing melted chocolate) and about 100 guests at yesterday evening’s Phi Mu fondue dinner.

“I really like interactive food,” she said. “I think it’s really fun.” Phi Mu, like all sororities, holds a philanthropy event every semester. This spring was Phi Mu’s first fondue-based event, a change of pace from their usual spring poker game.

Initial interest in the event was sparse — only 14 students bought advance tickets, a slight showing given that the sisters of Phi Mu spent \$382 in a single trip to WalMart to stock up for the event, mostly on Kraft cheese. “We completely filled up two shopping carts,” said Phi Mu president, junior Samantha Besora, said. “I think the cashier thought it was all for us.”

Despite the low sale of advance tickets, over 100 attended through the course of the evening, enough to exhaust Phi Mu’s initial cheese supply. Besora credited the universal appeal of food. “This is something that would appeal to Greeks and non-Greeks,” she said. “Who doesn’t like to eat?”

The sisters of Phi Mu spent much of the afternoon preparing for the event. Fondue pots were spread throughout the sorority house on buffet-style tables. Trays were filled with apple slices, carrot sticks, bits of bread and any other food



ALEX HAGLUND • THE FLAT HAT
The Phi Mu sorority held a fondue dinner to raise money for a children’s hospital.

that could conceivably be skewered and dunked in cheese, chocolate or ranch dressing. They were ready.

At 5 p.m., just as Phi Mu opened its doors, 30-some members of service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega arrived in a single group, mobbing the fondue pots and vegetable trays. The sorority house remained crowded throughout the evening, despite the sauna-like heat created by a combination of large, bustling crowds and the half-dozen fondue pots. The odor — a combination of chocolate, ranch dressing and Kraft cheese — only encouraged the visitors’ appetites.

Phi Mu’s labor — not to mention the inevitable food stains on the sorority’s furniture — was not in vain. Besora said the event raised over \$700 for the sorority’s chosen charity, a children’s hospital in Norfolk. Besora also added that the charity is so popular with the sisters of Phi Mu that there is a waiting list the sisters must add their names to if they wish the volunteer at the hospital.

According to Besora, she and four others from Phi Mu were planning on spending several hours tonight visiting with the children of the hospital.

For Phi Mu, volunteer work is just as much about forming bonds within the sorority as it was about giving back to the local community. “It helps us to come together with a big project,” Besora said. “There is that really tight bond. It’s cool to see that continual reminder of why we’re together.”

Akison said she hoped that Phi Mu’s example would inspire others — within and outside the sorority — to get involved in similar projects. “We’re trying to show that service can be fun,” she said. Akison’s example — she was Phi Mu Fondue’s organizer as well as its chief architect.

“We plan on continuing this and making it a tradition,” Besora said of the event. The first-ever Phi Mu Fondue, she said, was a success, and she hopes the sorority will raise even more money for the children’s hospital next spring.

Dance show on ‘Pointe’

By ASHLEY GRIGGS
THE FLAT HAT

Loud music, stage lighting, tap shoes and leotards — these images hardly spring to mind when you think of dancing at the College. However, the reality is that there is a heavy presence of dance on campus, including styles ranging from jazz to lyrical. Just ask the members of Pointe Blank, the College’s own student-run dance group.

Pointe Blank, which works entirely with student-developed choreography, will showcase its talents Sunday, April 15. The show will begin at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the University Center Commonwealth Auditorium. Tickets are \$4, and a portion of the proceeds will go to Students Helping Honduras and the Massai-American Student Association.

Life as a dancer at the College is fairly typical of the environment on campus: full of possibilities. “One of the great things about being a dancer at W&M is that there are so many options,” sophomore Lisa Bateman said. “It doesn’t matter where your specialty lies; you can always find a group on campus specific to the styles of dancing that you are looking for.”

Pointe Blank does all of its own costumes and choreography. The assortment of styles are incorporated into the show to ensure that something will appeal to just about everyone. “This is a really good [show] to go to if you’ve never gone to a dance show at William and Mary,” junior Amanda Desper said. “There’s really nothing to interpret. It’s just fun dancing.”

All semester the dancers of Pointe Blank have been preparing for this performance. This show is a culmination of their work together, and will include jazz, lyrical, modern, hip-hop, tap and partnering dances among other styles. “We really have a great

variety,” Desper said. “[Each dance has] its own style. Some are really funny. Some are sexy.”

According to Desper, even new members contributed to the choreography, and she said their enthusiasm shines through in the performance.

“Other groups have supervisors or choreographers with specific artistic visions, but Pointe Blank is a lot less restricting,” sophomore Jordan Gehley said. “Our group has a lot of energy and personality.”

One act to watch for during Sunday’s show is a dance choreographed by senior Evan Cook and junior Marie Carillo, that includes four boys and one girl. The girl never touches the ground, so the lifting involved is intricate and graceful. “It’s great to have the boys for lifting and they’re all happy and enthusiastic about it,” Gehley said.

The students emphasized how much fun goes into putting together their own show. Pointe Blank promises to put on a performance that will embody junior Katie Kenner’s description of her close-knit company: “time of my life.”



LAUREN NELSON • THE FLAT HAT
Pointe Blank presents an entirely student-choreographed show.

The price of popularity: more than Paris Hilton’s latest sex tape

CONFUSION CORNER



Lauren Bell

Being popular is hard. At least it looks like it is. I don’t have any first-hand experience in that field, but with my keen journalistic skills, I have observed that this week has been an especially tough one for the universally adored. Through the nefarious plotting of Up ‘Til Dawn, vast numbers of “campus celebrities” were wrenched from the embrace of their adoring fans and thrown together in a common cell like a load of peasants. Oh, the disgrace! Up ‘Til Dawn then had the cheek to ask these fallen stars for ransoms — low prices for D-listers, high for campus bigshots. Fame, apparently, does have a price, and a very specific one at that.

But how is one’s social worth decided? How does Up ‘Til Dawn determine if you are someone the campus would pay \$50 to set free, or if you would be hard-up to raise the paltry \$7 they assign to some of their hostages? What if they’ve misjudged your place in the campus popularity rankings and

no one comes to bail you out? What if you’re so offended by being priced at a mere \$7 that you just stay in jail and, out of pure spite, eat at least \$7 worth of free pizza? Who in the world is only worth \$7? Am I a jerk for kinda making fun of Up ‘Til Dawn, and is my being a jerk directly related to my not being a campus celebrity? How many questions can I ask before I actually have to write a declarative statement?

I have no answers for you. Celebrity, you see, is a fickle and mysterious wench. No one knows quite how she works (although I think it might help to be a totally banging hottie). Up ‘Til Dawn can’t be expected to figure out the intricate workings of campus fame. They are spending their time and efforts on slightly more important things, like, you know, raising money to help dying children. Besides, Up ‘Til Dawn doesn’t make celebrities; it just captures them.

So it falls to humble members of the

unwashed masses to look in from the outside and try to explain the engrossing mystery of campus celebrity. Campus celebrities are doubly perplexing because, unlike most famous-ish people (Paris Hilton, et al.), they seem to not want to be famous. They announce their capture for the sake of children in the way that most people would admit to having been caught playing with dolls any time past the sixth grade: “Um, excuse me guys, gosh, I hate having to do this, but ... I was (sigh, eye roll) ... Captured for Kids. Don’t judge me, it wasn’t my idea.” Yeah, and I bet the Malibu Barbie poster over your bed wasn’t your idea either — we’re still judging.

I don’t understand why these people would act so embarrassed (about being captured for kids, not the doll part — that is totally lame). It’s almost like they don’t want to take time out of their busy schedule of autograph-signing and sacrificial-gift-receiving to help the children.

I am just a silly, average person, unused to the wonders of fame. Were I to be captured for kids (which I have not been ... ever ... not that I’m bitter about it), I would be hitting up people for money right and left. This hardcore fundraising would of course be for the benefit of the children, but after taking people’s charitable donations, I would then take extra precious time out of my busy celebrity schedule so that I could tell them all about how, as a revered figure on campus, it was my duty to help those less fortunate. I would take as many minutes — even hours — as needed to explain how the people look to me for guidance and wisdom. No, I would not be embarrassed by my fame; I would own it, tame it like a wild beast and ride it into glorious adoration-filled sunset — because the children need me to.

Lauren Bell is a *Confusion Corner* columnist for *The Flat Hat*. She is worth \$45.12, but her friendship is priceless.



By ELIZABETH DERBY
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

Not many students enjoy all-nighters — fewer still would be comfortable with immediate interrogation and picture-taking afterward. Nikki Taylor is not most students, however, and despite these travails and the grey hump-day rain, she was bright-eyed and smiling for this interview. A consummate dancer, Nikki is as kind as she is accomplished. Here, this week’s That Girl discusses her work with the Syndicate, the Secret Service and being aresident assistant.

Tell me about your involvement with the Syndicate.

I was president of the Syndicate last spring semester and this fall semester. Rex Feng and I started it the spring of ’04, the end of my freshman year, and we got [started] in first semester sophomore year. It was fate, really: I wanted a hip-hop group, I wanted to start one, but I didn’t know how or who would do it with me, and the same day I voiced that to someone, I met Rex by chance in the UC. My friend introduced me, and he said “I want to do it, too. I wrote a constitution — do you want in?” Of course I did.

What is your dance experience?

I was classically trained in ballet at Washington Ballet in D.C., but I lost my scholarship because they found out I had one leg longer than the other — it’s not a big difference, but it was a pretty professional company, and they take things way too seriously. Any kind of imperfection at all just doesn’t fly. They didn’t renew my scholarship, so I dropped out and joined the dance team at my high school, which was very street jazz, hip-hop based movement. I really enjoyed that. I did some Broadway-style musical theater stuff, which was fun. Then I came to William and Mary, and all they had was Orchesis and Pointe Blanke, which have much more of a modern dance focus, and I’m no good at that.

Switching from ballet to hip-hop, I basically just had to loosen up a little, but when I switched to modern everything was different. You don’t have to hold your back straight; it doesn’t even have to look pretty half the time. It taught to me to do really different things with my body, but I didn’t stick with it because everything was so different, so unfamiliar. It wasn’t really my style.

What else do you do on campus?

I’m an RA out at Ludwell. I love it. They are very independent, but I still know all my residents, which is nice. Most of the things that my residents come to me for are very different than you’ll find in fresh-

That Girl

Nikki Taylor

man dorms. They don’t come to me with questions about the dorms or registering for classes or anything because they know it all already. Both years I’ve had residents who’ve come to me for pretty personal things like dating advice, which is funny because I don’t really date. It’s a very friendly relationship that I have with my residents in Ludwell, which is I think what makes it different from being an RA for freshmen because they don’t need the same type of help. They just need people to be there.

Do you know what you’re going to do next year?

Right now I’m talking to ABC — I would like to do things like media and journalism, but I still need to buckle down on that. I’m trying to use contacts from old internships I’ve had. I’ve been lucky with internships: I have the tendency to meet the right person at the right time. I did an internship with ABC News right before I came here, I did the Secret Service the summer after that and I did the British Parliament the summer after that.

Can you talk about what you did with the Secret Service?

I actually did background investigations, so it’s probably not something that would be too interesting to you. It was cool talking to agents who worked with first families — their opinions on Gore, Clinton, Bush, the daughters and who was troublesome and who wasn’t. Apparently the Bush twins are a handful, but Chelsea is really nice, and they hated Al Gore but loved Laura Bush — you know, kind of different perspectives. It was fun to talk to them.

It is shocking the different types of people who will apply to the Secret Service, though.

What other internships have you had?

At ABC I worked with Ann Compton, the White House correspondent. I got really lucky because I got to go to White House press briefings and she got me in with the Supreme Court, Congress, the State Department.

At the Parliament I was a research assistant for two members of the Labour Party. I drafted press releases, I did research for them, I attended some briefings there as well. That was a really unique experience because I lived in London with a good friend of mine. We rented a flat in a nice part of London; it was really nice because I got to see a lot of England. The internship itself was very clerical, but I was exposed to a lot. I was there during the Make Poverty History campaign and got to see Colin Firth. I was there during the bombings too, which was horrible, but it was interesting too at the time to see how that all works.

Social bondage constrains sexuality

It seems like everyone outside our generation wants to talk about our “hook-up culture.” New books are coming out about how young women are damaging themselves by thinking that they can be as casual about sex as boys are. The message is that we don’t know the damage we’re doing by having sex without attachment, choosing casual over commitment. The general conclusion: we need to be rescued from the mistakes we’re making.

What’s wrong with hooking up? What’s the big deal with the buzzword? Are we really doing anything different as young, sexual people then the generations before us? If anything, we have less intercourse and more oral sex and other activities that fall into the health class “heavy petting” category. But all anyone can talk about is how casual

we’ve become with our sexuality. And, despite the overwhelming role of sex in our popular culture, casual sexuality is one big lasting taboo.

For example, when I first started writing this column, I was in a long-term relationship. Whenever anyone criticized me for this writing — being a “slut” — to my friends, they defended me by talking about how long I had been with my boyfriend. This almost always changes people’s impressions of my sexuality for the better. Why? They might not know it, but they are biased, not against sexual activity, but casual sexual activity. It was okay if I was writing about experimenting with bondage with my boyfriend, but not if it was a guy I met that night at a party. It doesn’t seem fair that sexual choices are only legitimized by a socially recognized relationship when the same actions outside the relationship are an excuse to label someone with a negative sexual stigma.

The cultural stigma against casual sex is everywhere. Having sex just for fun, not as an expression of love or at least of “like” is still looked down upon. This stigma is especially directed at women since society still accepts men wanting sex merely for pleasure as normal, although it can be directed at men as well. This double standard for promiscuity is only the beginning of the problem. As long as men are expected to want sex for fun and women are expected to want sex for love, we’re going to keep reinforcing those stereotypes in our own perceptions and expectations.

Sex as a means for a good time or as an expression of love are both valid reasons for sexual activity. Causal sex definitely isn’t right for some people who only feel truly comfortable expressing themselves with someone they know, they trust and they love. Don’t interpret this defense of casual sex as a criticism of loving sex. Nothing beats sex that is both an expression of pow-



erful passion and pleasure, if that’s what you’re looking for. The point is that society should be accepting of letting people choose to have one or the other or both.

The prejudice against people who choose casual sex is damaging because it may push people to make more dangerous choices. For example, many college students use the effects of alcohol as an excuse to have casual sex. Then, they can defend their actions with the “I didn’t know what I was doing, I was wasted” defense. It’s easier then admitting to the cultural sin of enjoying sex for the sake of sex. It’s also easier to do something that one knows has a stigma against it under the influence. Choices made while drunk have an unfortunate habit of being regrettable choices and it’s dangerous that for many people.

Also, when people know the negative stigmas that follow choosing casual sex, many people find themselves simply not choosing. For women especially, because they can be a much more passive sexual partner, they can end up having sex without having really said “yes” or “no.” They can’t say “yes” because that makes them the kind of bad person “who” wants casual sex, but they don’t really want to say no, so they make no choice. This grey area is dangerous for men and women in terms of rape laws and personal sexual health. You can’t choose to be safe if you feel like you can’t make a true choice.

Everyone should feel that they have the right to make their sexual choices. When people don’t have safe, respected choices, that’s a problem for everyone. We need to make our choices for ourselves, always. No one should ever make any of your decisions for you. Sometimes, we make the wrong choices. We learn from them. Women fall into the trap of thinking that having sex will make men like them. This assumption needs to be wiped out of existence as soon as possible. Women everywhere will be a lot better off when they live in a society that respects that we can and will make our own decisions to please ourselves. We have sex because we want to, casual or committed.

Kate Prengaman is the Flat Hat sex columnist. Whatever, she does what she wants.

Sophomore strikes record deal

DICKERSON *from page 6*

have a change in plans. I’m going to sing another song, and it’s by Nancy Wilson, so here we go.”

While this change of plans may have seemed somewhat surprising to members of the audience, it was nowhere near as surprising as what was to follow. In a memorable performance, Dickerson “sang her little heart out,” and the results stunned the onlookers in the church, including her parents, grandparents and other family members.

“The acoustics were amazing,” she said. “They [my family] were all completely floored. My step-mom told me later that my dad was crying. Ever since, that song

was the one that showed people that I actually had what it takes to be a real vocalist.”

Although she had what it took at 14, there was still left room for improvement, which she found at Silver Spring’s John F. Kennedy High School. It was here that she began to try her hand in musical theater, illustrating her talents in prominent roles including Ruth in “Raisin” and Dorothy in “The Wiz.” Her performances on stage, coupled with her time spent in several local choirs, helped her achieve local notoriety and included several offers for professional opportunities while she was still in high school.

Years later, act three seems to have arrived. She describes the

feeling as surreal. “It still hasn’t all registered yet,” she said. “It’s ridiculous having all these dreams for such a long time and having them materialize right in front of you.”

Even in the face of blowing up, Dickerson says she has not really thought that far ahead. She remains focused on school, which she says is her number one priority. “My family would kick my behind if I didn’t finish school,” she said. “I’m just attempting to take it all in and take it in stride.”

With a firm foundation and a desire to produce music that is meaningful, it seems that she may have been right about Whitney Houston after all. Stay tuned for act four.

Of course, you already know them. Mills- or is it Oathbreaker now?- But Heroman has yet to meet them.

This is Marcus Monocle, CEO of Covell Oil. His eye-piece has x-ray vision capabilities.

Ah, the League has arrived. Time for introductions.

Over here we have the Parasoldier, who wields a mind-controlling umbrella.

Finally: The Cosmopolitan. He can teleport to any point he touches on a globe.

Together, we are the Renaissance League. will rule the world!

And together, we the Plot!

Next: The Plot!

Heroman

By Thomas Baumgardner

Horoscopes

Aries: March 21 - April 19



Sharing experiences with someone makes life enjoyable and worthwhile, unlike sharing Trix cereal with a talking rabbit who likes being around children too much.

Taurus: April 20 - May 20



Get a job. Your bank account woes will hit you like a brick of money this week and, ironically, the brick will have no monetary value whatsoever.

Gemini: May 21- June 21



Holding grudges will never pay off. Forgive all those who have hurt you in some way, with the exception of that prick who borrowed your calculator this morning.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22



Balance is a necessity to life. Sometimes you need a nice break from studying and other times you need to tight-rope walk across the Grand Canyon.

Leo: July 23 - Aug. 22



Unfounded accusations can lead to the end of relationships that you deem important. Just accept that fecal matter is under your pillow and don’t blame anyone.

Virgo: Aug. 23 - Sept. 22



Love is as much an event that leads to self-understanding as well as an understanding of others, much like surviving off of pine needles for six months with a friend.

Libra: Sept. 23 - Oct. 22



You will drive yourself crazy scratching an itch in your brain this week, while also discovering you shouldn’t stick pencils in your ear and that you are clinically insane.

Scorpio: Oct. 23 - Nov. 21



The last thing you need is more responsibilities, but you will realize how they are shaping your personality and making you an insomniac.

Sagittarius: Nov. 22 - Dec. 21



You will hit an emotional wall this week. You will be unable to smile, cry, eat, sleep, drink, walk, sleep and sleep. It’s going a tough week to say the least.

Capricorn: Dec. 22 - Jan. 19



Friends have always gotten you into all sorts of trouble, and if it were the board game, you would have one fewer parole officer to contact.

Aquarius: Jan. 20 - Feb. 18



Stressing over jobs can cause unnecessary anxiety, so relax. When you are up to your ears in debt and living in a ditch, that’s when you should get anxious.

Pisces: Feb. 19 - March 20



The stars have been getting along great this week, so this normally would be an auspicious sign for you. However, one of us could explode any second now.

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Easy

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Hard

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Easy

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5	4	8	1	9	2	3	7	6
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Hard

Directions:
Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each three-by-three block contain all of the digits 1 through 9.

Source: krazydad.com

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REVIEWS

Timbaland
fails in move
to the mic

BY GENICE PHILLIPS
THE FLAT HAT

Record producers take on many roles in the music industry, putting their individual stamp on songs that they create for musical artists as they stand behind the performance curtain. In the past few years, many producers have stepped forward as solo artists themselves, either completely bombing or carefully landing on their feet. A few well-known producers have failed at these attempts: Diddy, who has no rap skills whatsoever, dishes out a new CD every few years in order to keep Bad Boy Records afloat. Pharrell, another non-rapper who creates explosive beats, tries to sing back-up on Jay-Z records with disastrous vocal chops. And let’s not forget Kanye West, who I will admit, has great flowing skills; however, he rips timeless oldies and has a huge ego. The beat maestro, Timbaland, is just as unsuccessful on his new CD, “Timbaland Presents Shock Value.”

The Virginia native has been an accomplished producer since the late ’90s, but has really taken off this past year, swinging hit after hit for artists such as Justin Timberlake, The Pussycat Dolls and Omarion, making him one of the most sought-after producers. In his latest solo project, he invites all of his new (The Hives, 50 Cent) and old (Magoo, Missy Elliot) friends on this compilation CD, integrating a wide range of genres, such as hip hop, bhangra and rock. One would expect greatness from Timbaland, but what one will hear, past the infectious, booming beats, is ineffective rapping and singing tainted with sexual callings, unnecessary disses and arrogant assertions passed off as lyrics.

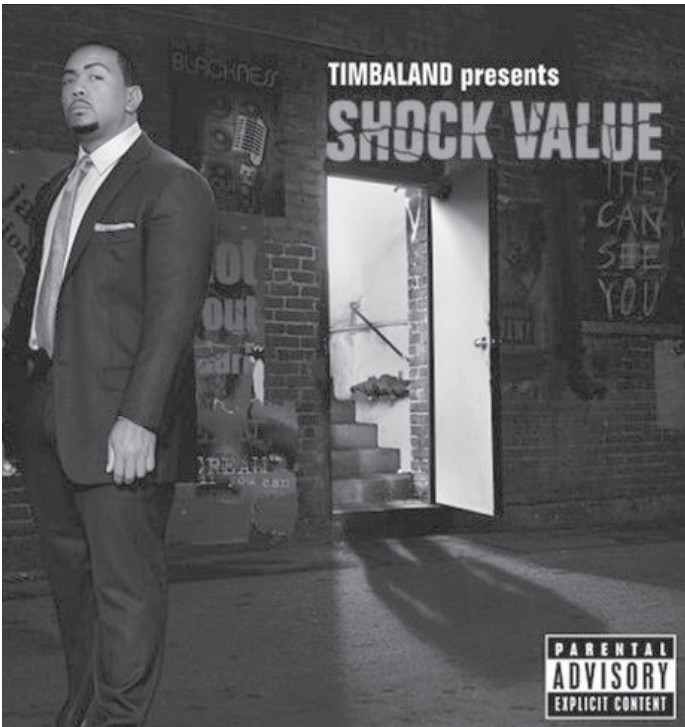
The opening track, “Oh, Timbaland,” is the only real solo track, filled with short piano riffs, church clapping and ragtime syncopation, as well as Nina Simone’s gritty voice from an old blues track, “Sinnerman.” The first single, “Give It to Me,” featuring Nelly Furtado and Justin Timberlake, is an addictive club hit that has nothing to do with partying. With the combination of singing, talking and a bit of stuttering, each artist expresses their growing beef with other singers and producers. It is rumored that Furtado aims her thrashings at Fergie, Timbaland aims his at California producer Scott Storch and Timberlake points to Prince and Janet Jackson.

A slim number of tracks off this album really show Timbaland’s virtuosity and ingenious creativity. “Way I Are,” another club track infusing house and trance together, features the singer-songwriter Keri Hilson, who wrote “Runaway Love” by Ludacris and The Pussycat Dolls’ “Wait A Minute,” and rapper D.O.E. Although Timbaland raps about his “scrub” tendencies with a serious lack of funds and transportation, “I ain’t got no money / I ain’t got no car to take you on a date / I can’t even buy you flowers / But together we’ll be the perfect soulmates,” the song is filled with futuristic beats that could become his next single.

Another track where he shines is a mesmeric rock ballad, “Apologize,” featuring alternative newcomers One Republic. One of Timbaland’s high points on the album is the soft strings, modest beats and a haunting piano that support lead singer Ryan Tedder’s melancholy voice on the track.

The quality of the rest of the album is questionable and in dire

See **TIMBALAND** page 9



COURTESY PHOTO • INTERSCOPE



COURTESY PHOTO • DIMENSION

Rose McGowan plays Cherry in Robert Rodriguez’s “Planet Terror,” the first of the two films in “Grindhouse,” a throwback to ’70s exploitation films.

Twin bill B-movies light up theaters

BY MOHAMMAD RAHMAN
FLAT HAT ONLINE EDITOR

Drop the remote, cancel your bowling plans, skip dinner at the Caf and go see “Grindhouse.” Entertainment doesn’t come cheap these days, but “Grindhouse” is a steal as you get two films for the price of one. And to top it off, there are fake trailers between the films to compliment the experience.

“Grindhouse” is a homage by directors Robert Rodriguez (“Sin City”) and Quentin Tarantino (“Kill Bill”) to ’70s exploitation films, or paracinema to all you film folks. The theaters these films played at were called grindhouse theaters because the films favored an abundance of sex, violence and gore over, let’s say, character development and cinematography. In short, don’t be surprised if critics rag on “Grindhouse.” The question is, how do you make a tribute to a genre that brought such classic films such as “Cannibal Holocaust,” “Ilsa, She Wolf of the SS” and, of course, who can forget “I Spit on Your Grave” — a film Roger Ebert called “a vile bag of garbage ... without a shred of artistic distinction”? With a plethora of decapitations and mass amounts of carnage, of course.

The first of the two films is Rodriguez’s “Planet Terror,” your not-so-typical zombie affair. While the plot may seem like a rehash (virus is on the loose, turning everyone into flesh-eating zombies),

Rodriguez’s trademarks give the film its knockout punch. Most notable is the score, whose Latin flavor compliments the film, making scenes of suspense even more exhilarating. Oh, and did I mention there is a lot of gore?

The second film is Tarantino’s “Death Proof,” a tale about a 50-something ex-stuntman named Stuntman Mike, played by Kurt Russell (“Poseidon”), who likes to stalk girls and find creative ways to kill them with his car. “Death Proof” features all of Tarantino’s trademarks, including shots from the trunk and long conversations (and I do mean long) between his main characters. It also features one of the most suspenseful car chases in recent memory that had me at the edge of my seat the entire time.

Both films feature a cast full of big names ranging from Bruce Willis (“Sin City”), to Rosario Dawson (“Clerks 2”), to Fergie of the Black Eyed Peas. These are the type of films actors love to make, and it shows. It is also the kind of film in which bad acting doesn’t hurt the end result.

Both movies also feature the “missing reel” treatment. You know the part of the film that explains everyone’s motives? Tarantino and Rodriguez felt it was unnecessary and decided to cut it. Actually, the truth is a bit tamer than that. Tarantino once bought the rights to a film that had missing reels during the most important scenes and felt it was a funny way of paying tribute.

★★★★☆

‘Henry IV’ production’s simplicity succeeds

BY TED HOGEMAN
THE FLAT HAT

Drunken debauchery, plots for power and suspenseful swordfights filled the University Center Commonwealth Auditorium beginning last Sunday as Shakespeare in the Dark performed “Henry IV, Part 1.” While the performance started off somewhat slowly, the production soon captivated me with its unique style and staging. Shakespeare in the Dark did an excellent job of bringing the intrigue and drama of the 15th century to life.

Before the play started, the context of the plot was introduced in a short movie detailing the fall of Richard II and the rise of Henry IV. This introductory film had a little too much information compacted into a short amount of time, and much of what was said could also be found in the program. However, it did provide a nice introduction to

the characters of the play, which was important due to the production’s minimalist approach to costumes and set. A brief speech by Director Zan Gillies, a sophomore, and Assistant Director Rachel Smith, a junior, introduced some of the more unusual set elements to the audience.

The set was disorienting at first, but quickly proved well-designed. To simulate a thrust stage, seats were placed in a square around the front of the auditorium, allowing the actors to perform directly to individual audience members if they so chose. Contrary to the group’s name, Shakespeare in the Dark performed with the lights on for the whole show, breaking the fourth wall and allowing the actors to watch the audience as the audience watched them. It was a nice touch that made the performance very entertaining and kept the audience on its toes. The thrust stage worked well, though there were times when the main action onstage was

blocked by other actors’ bodies. The settings themselves were created with a simple series of boxes and a large cloth curtain draped across the back of the main stage, allowing the set to be dynamic yet simple. It was also interesting to watch the actors rearrange the stage to set it up for the next scene.

The costumes were also incredibly simple, yet effective. Most actors in the play portrayed multiple roles, and it would have been very easy to get hopelessly confused were it not for the subtle costumes each actor had in order to distinguish each role. While none of the costumes were complex (most consisted of normal clothes under a colored sash), they provided essential details about each character.

The actors themselves also did a superb job in their roles. All of them brought their characters to life and gave each a distinct personality that resonated throughout the play. While

all the performances were great, certain actors stole the show, most notably senior Rob Forney as John Falstaff, the drunken comic relief of the play.

The actors also displayed surprising musical talent several times during the play, ranging from contemporary rock to medieval chanting. Toward the end, several actors revealed their proficiency with swords and golf clubs, leaping about the stage in well-choreographed duels. Junior Mike Curtain, playing Prince Hal, was particularly commendable for managing to perform great swordplay despite an injured leg. All of the actors did a superb job of making Shakespeare’s words jump off the page and onto the stage.

Shakespeare in the Dark’s ‘Henry IV’ was time well spent and proved highly entertaining. It brought intriguing design and excellent acting to one of Shakespeare’s most popular plays and did justice to the Bard.

New FX series follows con artist family

BY CHRIS KAPLAN
THE FLAT HAT

There’s a curious, though not altogether unappealing incongruity that initially appears in FX’s new weekly series, “The Riches.” From the two lead British actors portraying Southern American parents to the sometimes disjointed juxtaposition of comic, tragic and comically tragic scenes, nothing quite matches up.

Of course, in a way, this is right in line with the show’s premise: a family of travelling thieves, through a series of bizarre and violent events, end up impersonating a dead couple and living in their recently bought home located in the aptly named Eden Falls gated community. They do not match up with the normal, law-abiding lifestyle of the citizenry. Thus, they “live off the grid,” as we’re told in the show’s opener,

not having Social Security numbers, not paying taxes and, naturally, conning the hell out of nearly every “buffer” (non-thief) they come across. This premise provides plenty of fertile ground for drama, intrigue and comedy to grow, and the family in question seems ripe with enough character to allow for the blooming of these entertaining elements.

There’s Wayne Malloy, the silver-tongued father, played by Eddie Izzard (a British comedian probably best known Stateside for his cross-dressing stand-up comedy). There’s Dahilia Malloy, the explosive, recently paroled mother played by Minnie Driver (“Good Will Hunting”). And there’s their three equally criminally talented children, the smallest of which, a young boy, has a predilection towards wearing women’s clothing (hey, it helps to keep their identities secret during scams ...

and he just likes it).

This motley family is not alone in their lifestyle. There are plenty of other travellers, as they term themselves, who form a larger mafia-style family, complete with a loose — and as we soon find out, uncertain — hierarchy and arranged marriages for solidifying wealth and power.

The Malloys’ transformation into the Riches begins in the first episode at the traveller camp that assembles to celebrate Dahlia’s return from prison. While she is warmly welcomed by all, Wayne has a run-in with Dahlia’s cousin, a hostile, head-of-family hopeful named Dale Malloy, played by Todd Stashwick (“You, Me and Dupree”). Their violent encounter convinces Wayne that his family needs a change of lifestyle. So, after pilfering the traveller

See ‘**RICHES**’ page 9



COURTESY PHOTO • FX

British actors Eddie Izzard and Minnie Driver star as con artists Wayne and Dahlia Malloy in FX’s new show “The Riches,” which airs Mondays at 10 p.m.



Singled Out
Bright Eyes — “Four Winds”
From the band’s new album “Cassadaga”

Conor Oberst’s latest release, “Cassadaga,” expands upon his breakout 2005 release, “I’m Wide Awake, It’s Morning,” with full band orchestration. “Four Winds” features a country feel with its catchy violin melody.

— compiled by *Conor McKay*

iTunes top 10 albums

1. *Shock Value* — **Timbaland**
2. *Back to Black* — **Amy Winehouse**
3. *Cassadaga* — **Bright Eyes**
4. *Minutes to Midnight* — **Linkin Park**
5. *American Doll Posse* — **Tori Amos**
6. *Life in Cartoon Motion* — **Mika**
7. *We Were Dead Before the Ship Even Sank* — **Modest Mouse**
8. *Vena Sera* — **Chevelle**
9. *Because of the Times* — **Kings of Leon**
10. *Dignity* — **Hilary Duff**

HOLLYWOOD GOSSIP

I guess Imus be fired

Don Imus, host of the popular radio show “Imus in the Morning,” has lost his job after he made racist comments last week regarding the Rutgers University women’s basketball team. Imus referred to the players, eight of whom are black, as “nappy-headed hos.” CBS Radio announced it was pulling the plug on Imus’s show Thursday, marking the end of the personality’s 30-year radio career. CBS’s move comes after MSNBC announced Wednesday that it was dropping the show’s syndication.



And the winner is ...

After months of anticipation, the world can finally breathe a sigh of relief: DNA tests have confirmed Anna Nicole’s babydaddy. Classy photojournalist Larry Birkhead is a new father, and now controls the finances of potential billionaire Daniellynn. Upon hearing the news, he screamed “I told you so,” and then proceeded to hug fellow father contender Howard K. Stern. Get ready for the “Access Hollywood” exclusive — if he doesn’t reveal everything in the next week.



Sex on the ‘Beach’

Lauren Conrad, the 21-year-old star of “The Hills” and former star of “Laguna Beach,” now has a sex tape scare. Former boyfriend and ‘Beach’ costar Jason Wahler has threatened to release a tape of the two having sex. Though LC denies its existence, a source close to her confirms there is a tape of the former couple “fooling around” — but totally not having sex. Possible informants include LC’s former BFF and ‘Hills’ costar Heidi Montag and her boyfriend Spencer Pratt.



Gunn to return to ‘Runway’

“Project Runway” fans can rest easy: Tim Gunn has signed on for a fourth season of the hit Bravo reality show. Between speaking on campus and filming his own Bravo show, “Tim Gunn’s Guide to Style,” the College’s favorite fashionista was worried about being too busy to continue working on ‘Runway,’ but the heart of the show has found a way to make it work. Now all we have to do is hope the contestants are worthwhile.

— compiled by *Alice Hahn*

Izzard, Driver star in “The Riches”

‘RICHES’ from page 8

camp’s “family funds,” they slip away for a nearly foiled escape that ends in the accidental death of the Riches. This begins their biggest con yet: the stealing of the American dream by impersonating the dead couple in their home and living just like regular “buffers” (aside from the whole impersonating-a-dead-family bit).

The above sequence of events that serves as the story’s foundation perfectly illustrates the off-kilter and, at first, off-putting aspects of the show. Dahlia, fresh out of prison and appearing with half-tousled, half-cornrowed hair at the traveller camp, presents an arresting image, especially for those who know that the actress portraying her is anything but Southern. Her character stands in stark contrast to her (usually) easygoing, “half-breed” husband. Their pairing seems strange from both a purely physical perspective (Dahlia is way taller) to, more importantly, differences in personality. They soon display a definite chemistry, however, that overcomes the initial awkwardness of the first few episodes.

But what is really so rattling about the first show is its blitzkrieg transition from happy reunion to freak tragedy to fortuitous opportunity. The scene wherein the real Riches meet their untimely fate, and the Malloys their fortune, is a perplexing potpourri of horror, apparent frustration and solemn resolve to capitalize on the

situation. It is an abrupt and puzzling situation — there’s an “aw, shucks” sentiment expressed by some of the characters that can’t quite reconcile with the obvious remorse displayed by the others. They all soon recover (immediately, in fact, in the next scene) and are on their way to investigate the Riches’ house — a flow of events that feels entirely forced.

In the next few episodes, however, these originally incongruent elements begin to form a more organic, but nonetheless off-beat drama. Particularly in the latest episode, something reminiscent of regularity develops in the show’s pacing. With the premise fully explained, an exploration on suburban living that seems at least part of the show’s underlying purpose begins to unfold. In an exchange between Wayne and his oldest son Cael, who is noticeably upset with their change of lifestyle, Wayne remarks, “Everything was simpler in the RV.” There are other hints of this rumination on suburban living and, along with the show’s gripping storyline, proves worthwhile social commentary.

At its roots, “The Riches” is a drama not without exciting derivations from the standard formula. Only as the season progresses will it become clear whether its rich potential will fully flourish. After the most recent developments, it seems to be heading toward the light. For those wishing to catch up on the series, FX is showing a marathon tonight beginning at 9 p.m.

★★★★☆

Timbaland can’t cut it musically

TIMBALAND from page 8

need of restructuring. Timbaland basically lets his featured artists do the work for him, as he grunts and growls, giving one-word responses to remind his listeners that it’s his CD. In trying to take on different music genres, specifically rock, he strikes out on a few songs. “Throw It On Me,” featuring The Hives, doesn’t even showcase the garage band sound for which the band is mostly known. Instead, Hives frontman Pelle Almqvist howls and yells like the Tasmanian Devil, while Timbaland’s spastic raps lead into random guitar licks and a shouting chorus.

When he transfers over to hip-

hop, he collaborates with 50 Cent and Tony Yayo on “Come and Get Me,” a boring three-and-a-half-minute song that does nothing but illustrate how 50 Cent’s repetitious rhymes about shooting and killing another one of his enemies is no longer an impressive way to rise on the pop charts. “Bounce,” a self-proclaimed “panty anthem,” is laced with heavy beats and saturated with sexual exploitations, featuring Dr. Dre, Missy Elliot and Timberlake with ridiculous, laughable lyrics.

The album ends with another disappointing track called “2 Man Show,” which should really be called the “No Man Show.” As the featured artist, Elton John just

plays the piano while a gospel choir sings the chorus, and Timbaland repeatedly affirms that John is, in fact, on the song.

Overall, Timbaland’s ‘Shock Value’ is just shockingly awful. The rest of the songs are watered-down imitations of his previous productions as he tries to cater to his musical buddies instead of challenging himself beyond what he normally does. Granted, Timbaland creates a diverse style of beats that make each song unpredictable; but one cannot go on beats alone. He needs to stick to territory with which he’s better acquainted and leave the rest for the real musical artists.

★★★★☆

New defense in town

DEFENSE from page 10

“He’s very energetic and intense,” Cox said. “He’s a very good coach and I like his style, his technique. A lot of things that he does are rubbing off on the players ... things are definitely moving in a positive direction so far.”

The defense has been busy this spring. The unit practices four times a week, while Tuesdays and Thursdays serve as time to review film of the practices and hit the weight room. The players are determined to improve upon their performance from a year ago and have not allowed the loss of senior leadership affect the team.

“There is no void,” Cox said. “The reason for that is because of our young players. They kind of resemble my class, but a little more hungry, a little more goal-oriented.”

That mentality results from underclassmen such as Tracy and fellow redshirt freshman C.J. Herbert gaining valuable playing time last season. While the results were not always favorable, just getting on the field has had a major impact on the psyche of the two, as well as the rest of the defense.

“Last year was our first action on the field at the collegiate level and I don’t care what anybody says, you get out there and you’re nervous,” Tracy said. “Us having some experi-

ence out there in the last 12 games definitely helped. We are assuming the role that the seniors had but at a younger year. We need to step up and mature and be leaders for our defensive group.”

More so than in years past, this spring has proven vital for the defense, as they attempt to rebound from a poor season and form an identity around a new coordinator and a new set of younger leaders. So far they have been successful, but there is still a great deal of work to be done.

“I think they’ve improved,” Laycock said. “We are probably not making as many plays as we would like to defensively, so far as fumbles or interceptions or things like that, but I think our effort is good and our enthusiasm is good and it really looks like we are beginning to understand the defense.”

While the Tribe’s season opener against the University of Delaware is more than four months away, the confidence and excitement around Zable Stadium on the defensive side of the ball is growing rapidly.

“The only thing I can guarantee is that we are going to be dangerous,” Tracy said. “We have a new system and we have some key players that play the roles we need them to play throughout the defense. I definitely think we can exploit some offenses’ weaknesses.”

NHL: quest for the Cup

NHL from page 10

to win their first playoff series against the no. 5 San Jose Sharks in a rematch from last year. The Sharks’ inexperienced defense will have their hands full against the West’s most potent offense but Nashville must play with discipline as the Sharks’ power play ranks second in the league.

NHL.com provides the full schedule while NBC and Versus will supply television coverage. Let the quest begin.

Timothy Huffstutter is a senior at the College. He will be glued to the TV rooting on the Nashville Predators.

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FROM THE SIDELINES

NHL playoffs:
quest for the
Stanley Cup

Thought post-season play ended after the NCAA basketball championships? Think again, sports fans. Beginning Wednesday, April 11, 16 teams will vie for the National Hockey League’s Stanley Cup. In a season that came down to the wire, the postseason promises to be very exciting.

In the Eastern Conference, the no. 8 New York Islanders earned a playoff spot in the last game of the regular season in dramatic fashion. The Isles open the post season against the top seed Buffalo Sabres. New York expects goalie Rick DiPietro to return from the injured list, but even his stellar play may not be enough to slow down the Sabres, as Buffalo boasts the most potent offense in the league.

The no. 2 New Jersey Devils host the no. 7 Tampa Bay Lightning. This is an intriguing matchup of contrasting styles as the Devils play a defense-first mentality while the Bolts attack with speedy superstars Vincent Lecavalier and Martin St. Louis. Tampa Bay has a big question mark in net, however, as rookie goalie Johan Holmqvist is expected to start. The Devils, on the other hand, rely on one of the best goalies in the league, Martin Brodeur. The first team to dictate the other’s style of play will win this series.

The no. 3 Atlanta Thrashers earned their first postseason appearance in franchise history. They open against the sixth-seeded New York Rangers, a team looking to shake off memories of last year, when New Jersey swept them out of the first round. The play of the goaltenders will determine this series. The Thrashers hope rookie Kari Lehtonen will continue posting all-star numbers. The Rangers’ net-minder is second-year Henrik Lundqvist, who has also had a solid season, posting career-best numbers.

The final series in the East presents the postseason debut of superstar Sidney Crosby, as his no. 5 Pittsburgh Penguins battle the no. 4 Ottawa Senators. Look for experience to be the deciding factor as the Penguins field a young team while the Senators roster is full of seasoned veterans. If the Pens’ young stars are not shaken by their first trip to the postseason, then the Senators could have their hands full.

In the Western Conference, the eighth-seeded Calgary Flames skate up against a perennial powerhouse in the top-seeded Detroit Red Wings. These teams are evenly matched, as evidenced by their splitting the regular season series 2-2, but the team that can win on the road will have an advantage in this series. The Red Wings certainly have the better road record but do not expect the Flames to fizzle easily.

Next up, the second-seeded Anaheim Ducks host the seventh-seeded Minnesota Wild in an incredibly even series. The Ducks are a physical team with Chris Pronger and Scott Niedermayer anchoring the defense, while the Wild sport a stout defensive style that will work to limit the Ducks’ offensive chances. This one should be a dandy.

The no. 3 Vancouver Canucks host the no. 6 Dallas Stars in a series sure to be dominated by defense as both teams rank among the top five defenses in the league.

The no. 4 Nashville Predators are looking

See NHL page 9

BASEBALL: TRIBE 11, LIBERTY 1

Tribe puts out Flames a 2nd time

Sexton sets school hits record with RBI single as team knocks off Liberty in second meeting in a week

By MADDY WOLFERT
THE FLAT HAT

Following three tough losses against conference opponent Georgia State University over the weekend, the College rebounded against Liberty University at Plumeri Park Tuesday night, dominating the Flames 11-1. Senior third baseman Greg Sexton became the College’s all-time hits leader with an RBI single in the first inning.

“We played good baseball all around tonight in a game that was huge after coming off this past weekend’s losses,” freshman starting pitcher Cody Winslow said.

In only his second collegiate appearance, Winslow earned his first career win at the College as he pitched five solid innings, striking out four and allowing only six hits and one run. Freshman Tyler Truxell, junior Mike LaFleur, senior Warrik Staines and junior Sean Grieve all took the mound in relief to shut down the Flames for the remainder of the game.

“I think the key to our success tonight came from a very strong performance by our pitching staff,” junior center fielder Paul Juliano said. “We played one of our best games of the year tonight because of that effort. We’ve been hitting and putting up runs all year, and we’ve been playing some pretty good defense too. So, when our pitching staff is able to slow the opposition’s offense, we become one of the toughest teams around.”

Offensively, the Tribe aided Winslow’s impressive outing with 14 hits. Senior second baseman Brent McWhorter went 3-for-3 with three



SARAH GRAYCE • THE FLAT HAT

Tribe baseball travels to Hofstra University this weekend for a 3-game series. The team has a 21-16 record so far this year.

doubles and two RBIs, while junior designated hitter Tim Park went 3-for-4 with four RBIs. Sexton, who entered the game tied with Michael Brown, ’03, atop the career hit list with 278, followed his record-breaking single with two more hits, finishing the day 3-for-5.

“All year he has been our vocal leader who not only excels by example on the field, but makes his presence felt in the locker room,” sophomore first baseman Mike Sheridan said.

The Tribe established dominance early as McWhorter led off the bottom of

the first with a double to left field. After Park singled and Sheridan drew a walk, McWhorter scored on Sexton’s single. Junior left fielder Greg Maliniak scored Park on a fielder’s choice grounder to third. In the second, McWhorter shot another double to left, advancing sophomore shortstop Lanny Stanfield to third. A two-run double from Park scored Stanfield and McWhorter, and a groundout from Sheridan plated Park.

“Our offense pounded the ball and forced Liberty to make plays and go to their bullpen early,” Winslow said.

The College maintained offensive strength throughout the contest, as Juliano, McWhorter and Park scored in the sixth, and freshman catcher Chris Jensen and Juliano scored on a McWhorter double in the seventh.

The Tribe returns to action this weekend at Hofstra University.

“The win gives us some strong momentum into the conference weekend against Hofstra. If we can stop the opposition’s offense like this consistently, we will be a force to be reckoned with,” Juliano said.

FOOTBALL

New line of defense

Bob Shoop takes over as defensive coordinator for the Tribe

By MILES HILDER
FLAT HAT ASSOC. SPORTS EDITOR

Last year’s football season was a disappointment for the Tribe, as the College struggled to one of their worst records, 3-8, in Head Coach Jimmye Laycock’s 27-year tenure at the helm.

On the defensive side of the ball, the College labored through a season plagued by injury and inconsistency. Despite sporting the second best turnover margin in the Atlantic 10, the defensive unit allowed the third-most rushing yards per game in the conference and ranked second-to-last in total defense. In addition to this, the Tribe failed to show signs of improvement throughout the year, exhibiting a Jekyll and Hyde routine from game to game, and sometimes even quarter-to-quarter, that would eventually lead to the dismissal of Coach Matt McLeod as the defensive coordinator.

With the specter of consecutive losing seasons and the departure of six defensive starters looming over the Tribe entering the off-season, Coach Laycock went on the hunt to hire a new defensive coordinator to help reinvigorate the unit. His choice was former Columbia University Head Coach Bob Shoop.

“This is the first time in a while we had really gone

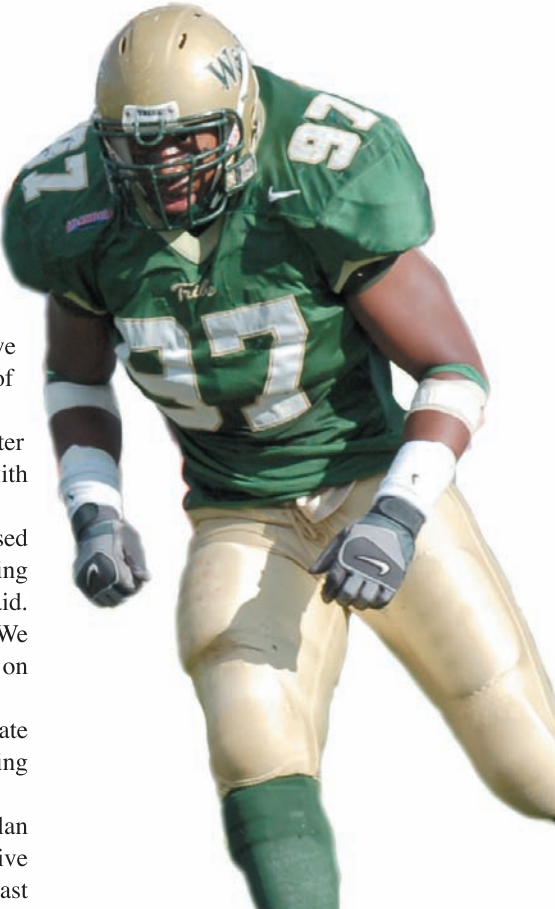
outside the staff [in hiring a new coordinator],” Laycock said. “I wanted to find someone who had experience as a coordinator and had coached in the secondary as well. We really took our time and we looked at a lot of people. [Coach Shoop] brings us a lot of different things.”

Shoop arrived on campus near the end of winter workouts and immediately set out to develop a rapport with the players.

“When he first came here, while he had to be focused towards football, Coach Shoop took an interest in meeting each of us individually,” junior cornerback Derek Cox said. “You could meet with him wherever you wanted to. We got to know him on a personal level; he got to meet us on a personal level.”

This approach has helped Shoop make an immediate impact on the defense, which is evident in the team’s spring practices.

“It’s just amazing the way he came in here with a set plan of what he wanted to accomplish,” sophomore defensive end Adrian Tracy said. “He knew what we did in the past and he knew the personnel and where they best fit in our new defense for what we are going to do.”



IRENE ROJAS • THE FLAT HAT

Sophomore defensive end Adrian Tracy (above) will be called upon to assume more of a leadership role under new defensive coordinator Bob Shoop.

See DEFENSE page 9

WOMEN’S TENNIS: TRIBE 4, VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH 3

Moulton-Levy’s singles victory
breaks tie, lifts Tribe past Rams

Freshmen Acharya and Sabacinski also record singles wins

By KATE TEDESCO
THE FLAT HAT

The Tribe earned their 10th victory over a ranked opponent Tuesday as the team held off an opportunistic Virginia Commonwealth University squad to capture a 4-3 win and move their record to 16-2 on the season. The Tribe, who entered the match ranked 16th in the nation, struggled to put away 23rd-ranked VCU as the Rams fought hard on their home court, forcing senior Megan Moulton-Levy to emerge victorious in the final singles match to secure the College’s triumph.

The College swept all three doubles matches to take an early 1-0 lead against their CAA foe. Freshmen Ragini Acharya and Magdalena Bresson were first to finish at the no. 3 doubles spot with an 8-5 win. Sophomores Klaudyna Kasztelaniec and

Barbara Zidek won their eighth straight match, 8-6, at the no. 2 doubles position. The Tribe’s no. 1 nationally-ranked tandem of Moulton-Levy and the reigning CAA singles player of the week Katarina Zoricic capped off the doubles matches with a 9-7 victory.

The Rams jumped ahead early in the singles matches as both Bresson and Kasztelaniec suffered defeats in the no. 4 and no. 5 spots, respectively. Acharya, the 114th-ranked singles player in the nation, tied the match at 2-2 with a win at the no. 3 position. Zoricic, who earned her first CAA singles player of the week honor last week, fell to VCU’s Marianna Yuferova 6-4, 6-2 in the no. 2 position.

With the Tribe trailing 3-2 and on the brink of defeat, freshman Lauren Sabacinski came through with a 6-2, 6-4 victory at no. 6 singles. This tied the match for a second time and set the

stage for Moulton-Levy, ranked sixth in the nation among singles players, to win the match. Moulton-Levy disposed of VCU’s Tatsiana Uvarova, ranked no. 32 nationally, by a score of 6-2, 7-6 to secure the victory for the College.

“The match versus VCU was a really good win for our team,” Zoricic said. “Some of our girls really fought hard and played great, and that was exciting to see. All of our girls have been working really hard, and have been putting in a great effort to improve each day.”

The Tribe, currently in their ninth consecutive week ranked in the national top-20, will return to action tomorrow as they host the University of Richmond at 4 p.m. on Busch Courts. Moulton-Levy and fellow senior Alexandra de Guzman will be honored as the match marks Senior Day, the Tribe’s last home contest of the season.



ALEX HAGLUND • THE FLAT HAT

Sophomore Barbara Zidek (above) and her doubles partner sophomore Klaudyna Kasztelaniec defeated their VCU doubles opponents 8-6 at the no. 2 position in Tuesday’s win.